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Neural correlates of prosody and information structure

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Stellingen

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Neural correlates of prosody and information structure

van Diana V. Dimitrova

1. Less is not more: Listeners respond more strongly to superfluous accents than to missing accents, although they clearly react to the incongruity of both types of contextual mismatch. (Chapter 2)
2. The brain responds to differences in prosody and prosodic congruity even in the absence of prosodic judgment. However, by changing the task, one modulates the neural mechanisms of prosody and speech processing.
3. The processing of prosodic prominence occurs whether or not a context is present and whether or not accent is congruent with context, although the responses to it may be modified by either of these factors.
4. Discourse matters. Highly predictive discourse contexts project expectations of prosody and facilitate the processing of accents.
5. Listeners are sensitive not only to the presence of prosodic prominence but also to the type of accents speakers use, as well as to the parallelism between accents across clauses. (Chapter 4)
6. Corrective prosody and focus particles are like Harry Potter for the listener: they spur the imagination of possible worlds besides the information given.
7. If you believe that prosody does not matter, you should try to speak without it.
8. Attend to accent to understand.
9. La parole nous a été donnée pour déguiser notre pensée. (Charles Maurice de Talleyrand 1754 – 1838)